

2900 Cardinal Dr.
Cooper City, FL 33026
July 20th, 2000

7711 00 JUL 26 10:26

FDA Commissioner Jane Henry
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 00P-1211/CP1 AND
RE: Docket No. 99N-4282

Dear Commissioner Henry,

Let me state up front that I think that there is a tremendous need for the FDA to institute a pre-market and environmental testing regime for genetically engineered foods, as well as mandatory labeling for such foods. The official rulemaking docket (#00P-1211/CP1) allows the public to write in and support such an action.

Additionally, as a concerned citizen and in response to Docket No. 99N-4282, I submitted my comments expressing support for labeling of all genetically modified (excluding non-invasive cross-breeding) foods.

Docket No. 99N-4282, posted in October 1999, called for the public to submit comments on bio-engineered foods. I am now writing to ask that you require the labeling and pre-market safety testing of genetically engineered foods. I am not alone in supporting labeling of genetically engineered food. Recently (DATE), a Time Magazine poll showed that 81% of American consumers believe genetically engineered foods should be labeled. American citizens have a right to know what is in the food that we are purchasing, as well as how it was produced.

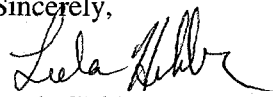
I am deeply concerned that the U.S. government has ignored the safety of our food for decades by not requiring require mandatory pre-market safety testing of genetically engineered foods or labeling of genetically engineered food. Without such requirements, we do not know if new toxins or allergens are being introduced, or if levels of existing toxins in these new, novel foods are increased. Additionally, the effect of using of antibiotic resistant genes in the genetic engineering process remains unclear, and may pose a health risk by transferring such resistance to consumers.

Further, it is my understanding that the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act mandates that genetically engineered foods be subject to pre-market safety testing and labeling. I support the Center for Food Safety and other organizations that have filed suit against the FDA to require the fulfillment of these legal obligations.

Gentleman farmers went by the wayside in the first half of the twentieth century, and with the advent of commercial farming and genetic modification, people were further removed from the food that they eat. Worries about Microsoft's monopoly pale in comparison to issues about our food supply. Ultimately humans subsist on food not technology, the internet, and software. We must not ignore the safety and organic nature of our food.

Please take action to ensure that I have the ability to make an educated choice about the foods that I eat.

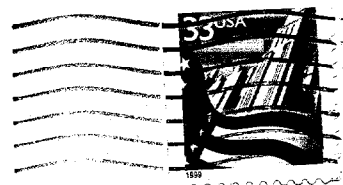
Sincerely,


Leela Hebbbar

00P-1211

C- 3531

RPWax
S. Univ.
Swick, NJ 08901



Jane Henry
FDA Commissioner
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

20857/0001

